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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 ICA-11 TRSE-00 NSC-05
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SECDEF WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
USNMR SHAPE BE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
JUSMG MAAG MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USNATO 03582

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, SP
SUBJECT: SPAIN AND NATO - FORCE COMMITMENT

REF CHIEF JUSMG MAAG MADRID 041115Z APR 78
-
1. THERE FOLLOWS IN PARAGRAPH 2 BELOW A SUGGESTED REPLY TO GENERAL GALARZA'S QUESTION (REFTEL) ON NATO'S CATEGORIZATION OF FORCES AND THE NATIONAL CONTROL IMPLICATIONS THEREOF. WE PROPOSE THAT IF WASHINGTON CONCURS, THE CHIEF JUSMG, MADRID BE AUTHORIZED TO PROVIDE THE RESPONSE TO GEN GALARZA. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE.

2. BEGIN TEXT OF PROPOSED RESPONSE:

- A. UNDER NATO PROCEDURES AND DEFINITIONS A NATION
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ALWAYS RETAINS NATIONAL COMMAND OF ITS ARMED FORCES; FULL COMMAND DOES NOT PASS TO A NATO COMMANDER. IN ASSIGNING FORCES TO NATO, NATIONS ASSIGN ONLY OPERATIONAL COMMAND OR OPERATIONAL CONTROL. IN SUM, NATIONS MAINTAIN FINAL AUTHORITY OVER THEIR FORCES, AND ALWAYS RETAIN THE RIGHT TO USE THEIR FORCES FOR NATIONAL EMERGENCIES AND TO CARRY OUT NATIONAL DEFENSE RESPONSIBILITIES.

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FORCES ASSIGNED TO NATO OPERATIONAL CONTROL IN PEACETIME ARE THOSE NECESSARY FOR DETERRENCE AND READINESS. THE CATEGORIES OF ASSIGNED AND EARMARKED REFLECT NATIONAL INTENTIONS TO TRANSFER OPERATIONAL COMMAND IN TIME OF TENSION OR WAR.

- B. THROUGH A NEGOTIATING PROCESS, USUALLY IN THE ANNUAL DEFENSE PLANNING REVIEW, NATIONS DESIGNATE FORCES FOR NATO AS FOLLOWS:

- (1) NATO COMMAND FORCES ARE THOSE FORCES WHICH NATIONS PLACE UNDER OPERATIONAL COMMAND OF A NATO COMMANDER IN TIME OF TENSION OR WAR. IN ADDITION, SOME AIR DEFENSE UNITS ARE UNDER THE OPERATIONAL COMMAND OF SACEUR AND STANAVFORLANT SHIPS ARE UNDER THE OPERATIONAL COMMAND OF SACLANT IN PEACETIME.

- (2) NATO ASSIGNED FORCES ARE THE FORCES WHICH NATIONS AGREE TO PLACE UNDER THE OPERATIONAL COMMAND OF A NATO COMMANDER AT A SPECIFIC STAGE UNDER THE NATO ALERT SYSTEM.

- (3) NATO EARMARKED FORCES CONSTITUTE THOSE FORCES WHICH NATIONS AGREE TO PLACE UNDER OPERATIONAL COMMAND OF A NATO COMMANDER AT A FUTURE DATE.
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- C. THE ABOVE ARE CONSIDERED FIRM COMMITMENTS AND NATIONS ARE URGED TO ABIDE BY THEM. MECHANISMS EXIST, HOWEVER, TO USE FORCES COMMITTED TO NATO FOR NATIONAL MISSIONS. THE DEGREE OF FREEDOM FOR NATIONAL COMMANDS TO USE FORCES COMMITTED TO NATO VARIES WITH THE CATEGORY OF ASSIGNMENT. THERE ARE NO RESTRICTIONS IF THE NATIONAL MISSION DOES NOT PRECLUDE MEETING THE NATO COMMITMENT. NATIONS RETAIN THE RIGHT TO SUBSTITUTE UNITS COMMITTED TO NATO PROVIDED THE STRENGTH, COMPOSITION AND QUALITY OF THE BASIC COMPONENT REMAIN ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED. SUBSTITUTION OF ASSIGNED FORCES SHOULD BE DONE IN CONSULTATION WITH THE MAJOR NATO COMMANDER CONCERNED SO THAT THE ALLIANCE DEFENSE EFFORT IS NOT JEOPARDIZED. EARMARKED FORCES MAY BE SUBSTITUTED WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION. IN THE CASE OF FORCES UNDER NATO OPERATIONAL COMMAND, IT HAS BEEN AGREED THAT NATIONS WILL NOT REDEPLOY OR USE THESE FORCES OPERATIONALLY WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE MNC, SUBJECT TO POLITICAL GUIDANCE OF THE NAC/DPC. THE FOREGOING DOES NOT APPLY TO ADMINISTRATIVE MOVES, NOR DOES IT APPLY TO EMERGENCIES WHERE URGENCY PRECLUDES FOLLOWING THE NOTIFICATION AND CONSULTATION PROCEDURE.

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- D. IF A NATION FEELS URGENTLY COMPELLED TO WITHDRAW UNITS FROM A NATO CATEGORY FOR REASONS OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY OR TO CARRY OUT NATIONAL DEFENSE RESPONSIBILITIES,THE NATION SHOULD INFORM THE NAC/DPC, MC AND MNC AT THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY. THE MC IS THEN REQUIRED TO PROVIDE AN ESTIMATE OF THE MILITARY IMPACT OF THE NATIONS DECISION TO THE NAC/DPC. CHANGES IN CATEGORY, HOWEVER, SHOULD BE MADE, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ANNUAL DEFENSE PLANNING REVIEW. END TEXT.

3. THIS IS A JOINT USNATO/USDELMC CABLE PREPARED IN

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COORDINATION WITH THE US ELEMENT AT SHAPE. BENNETT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEMBERSHIP, ALLIANCE, INSTRUCTIONS, FORCE & TROOP LEVELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USNATO03582
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780151-0367
Format: TEL
From: USNATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780478/aaaacovl.tel
Line Count: 158
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3032379
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Subject: SPAIN AND NATO - FORCE COMMITMENT
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To: STATE JCS
Type: TE
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Review Markings:
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Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014